



TOWN OF HANOVER
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Catherine Harder-Bernier
Town Clerk

October 1, 2016

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Town Clerk Catherine Harder-Bernier is excited to announce that all registered voters will be able to vote before Election Day for the first time ever in Massachusetts this fall. Early voting will begin on October 24th and continue through November 4th, 2016. Prior to the enactment of this new law, the only way a registered voter was allowed to vote prior to Election Day was through absentee voting. Although absentee voting will still be available for registered voters who qualify, only those who will be absent from their city or town on Election Day, or have a disability that prevents them from going to the polls, or have a religious belief preventing the same, are legally allowed to vote by absentee ballot.

Unlike absentee voting, early voting is for every registered voter. Registered voters do not need an excuse or reason to vote early. Regardless of whether a voter wants to take advantage of early voting, vote absentee or vote on Election Day, the first step is making sure you are registered. To check to see if you are registered to vote, and to find information on how to register to vote, you may visit the Secretary of the Commonwealth's website: www.sec.state.ma.us/ele and go to "Am I Registered to Vote?" If you need to register to vote, you may do so online by visiting: www.RegisterToVoteMA.com. All you need is a license or an ID issued by the Registry of Motor Vehicles to apply online. To be eligible to vote in the November 8th State Election, you must register to vote or make any necessary changes to your voter registration by October 19th, 2016.

Early voting may be done in person or by mail. In Hanover, early voting may be accomplished in person at Hanover Town Hall, 550 Hanover Street, during the two weeks of October 24th – November 4th on: Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Wednesdays from 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m., and Fridays from 8:00 a.m. – 12 noon. For the convenience of the public, Hanover Town Clerk Catherine Harder-Bernier has also decided to offer weekend hours on Saturday, October 29th, from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Please note, however, once a voter has cast an early voting ballot, the voter may no longer vote at the polls on Election Day.

For the first time in Massachusetts, the first choice all voters will make is which day to vote. Early voting will make the most fundamental right of our citizens more convenient than ever to exercise. All Hanover residents are encouraged to exercise that right and take advantage of the opportunity to vote when their schedules allow.